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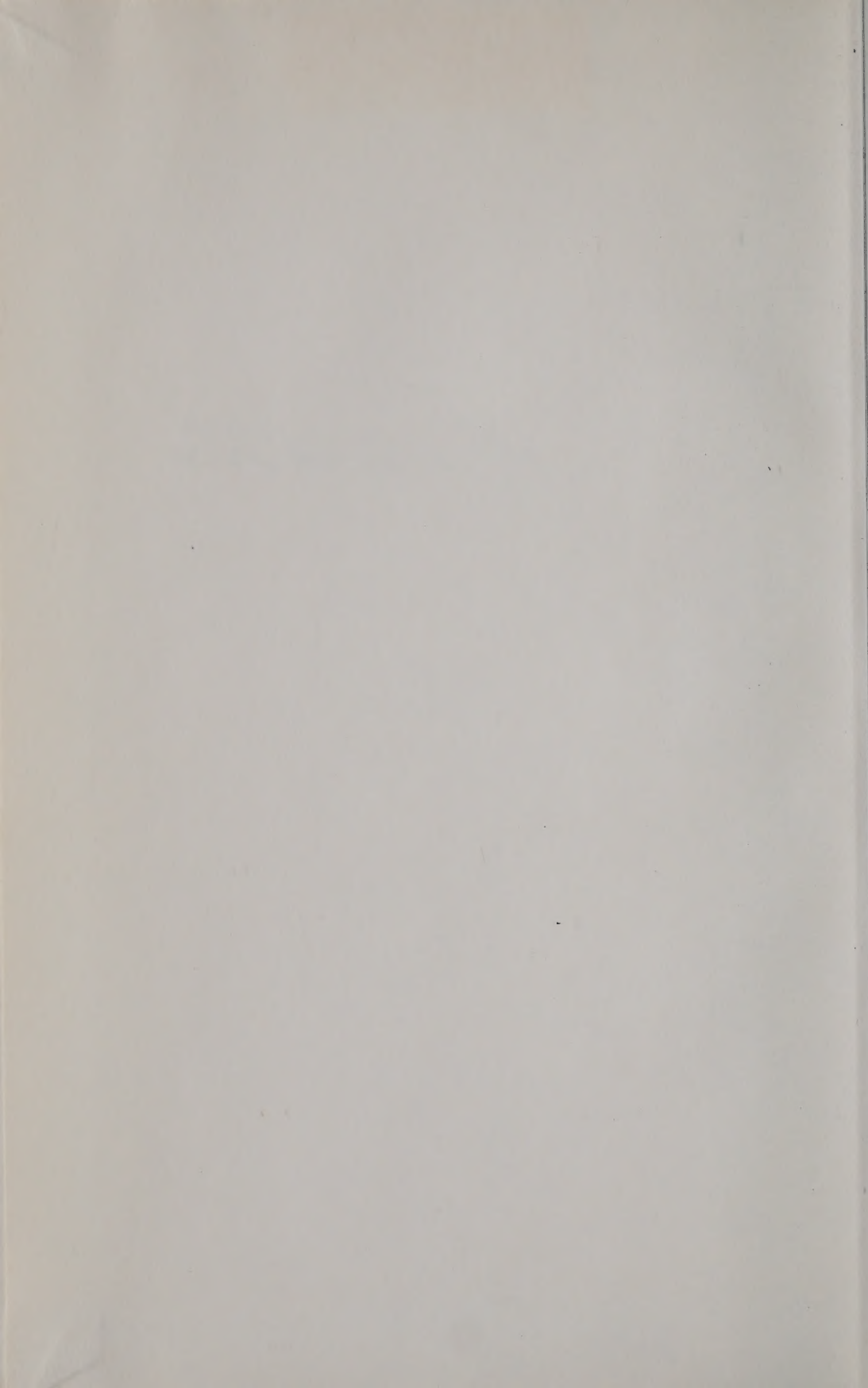
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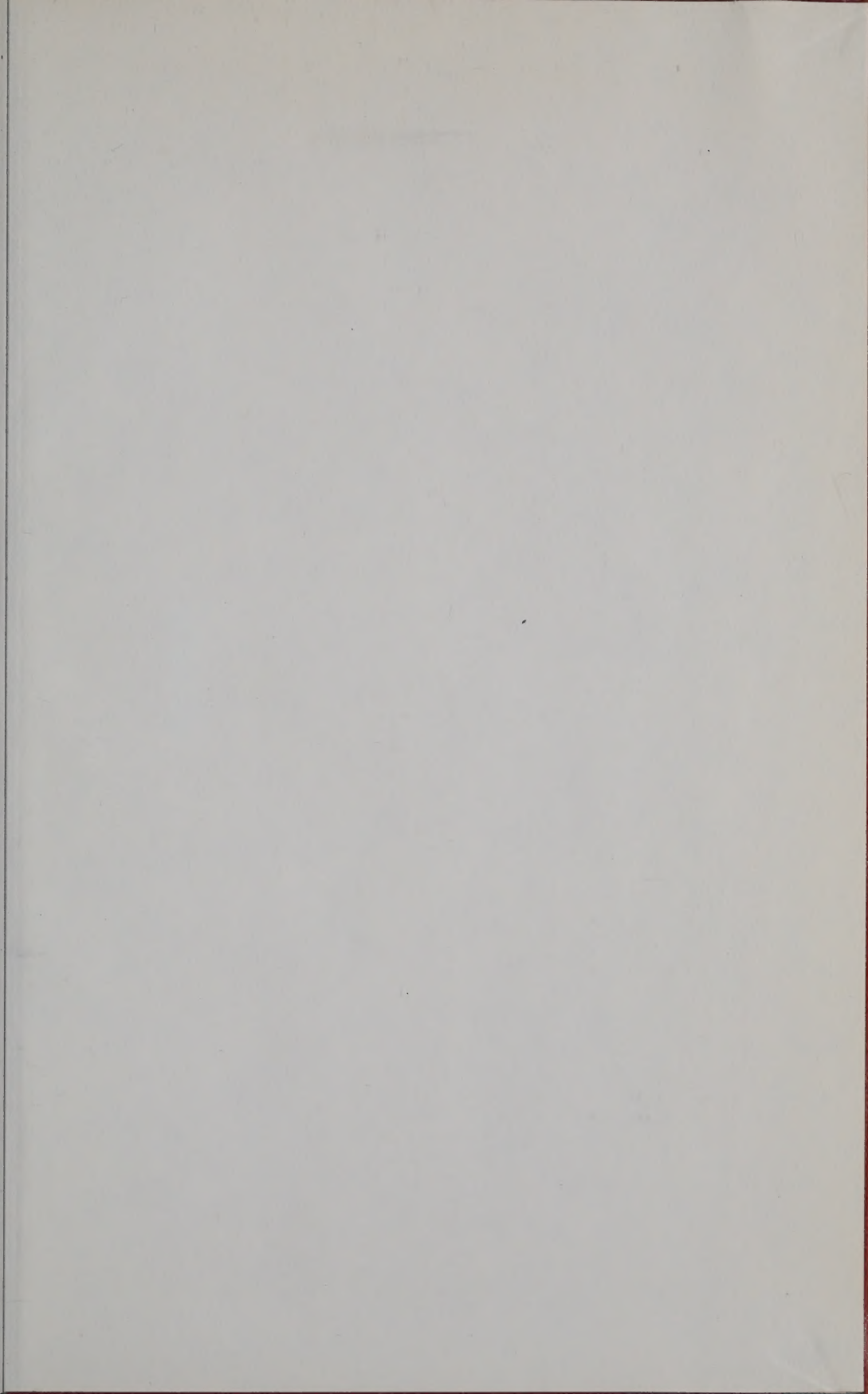
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Sacred Heart Church

Diamond Jubilee

Souvenir Book

Floresville, Texas

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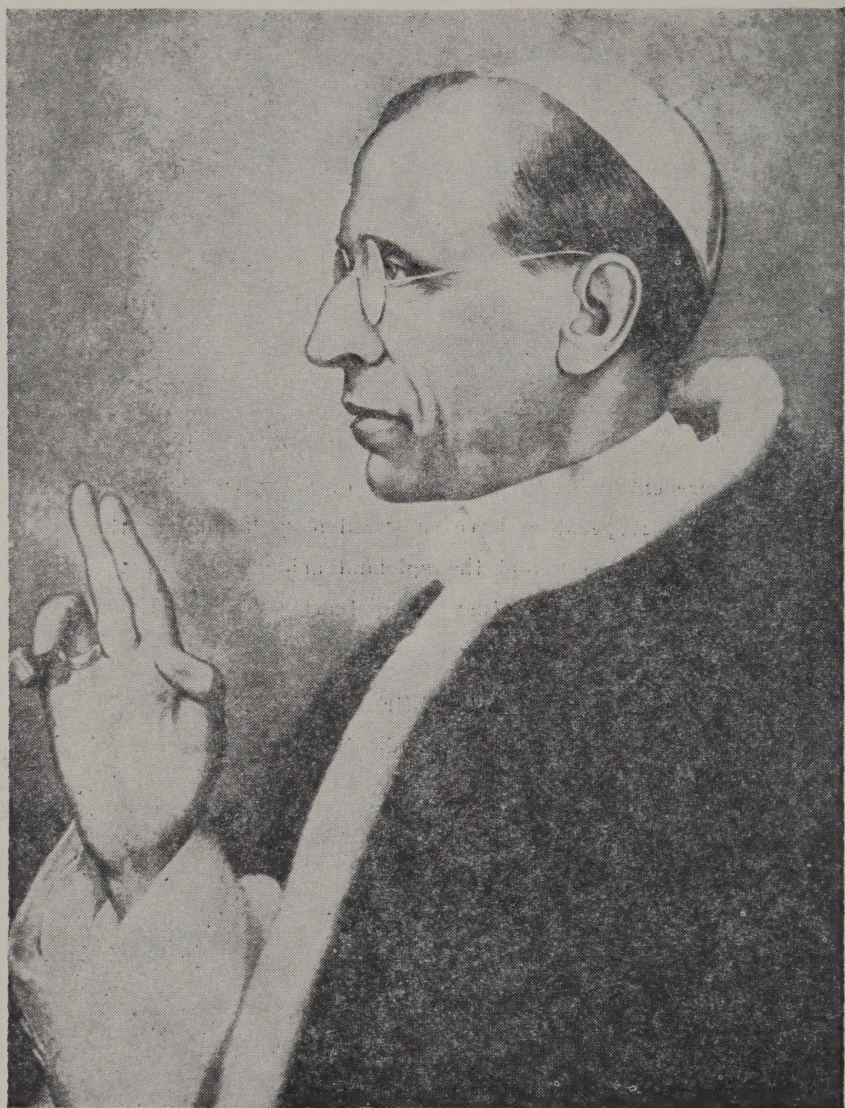


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*To* our loyal and devoted parishioners of the past and present, who by their spirit of sacrifice and their generous cooperation have contributed so largely to the wonderful success and the splendid achievement of the first three quarter century of existence of Sacred Heart Parish is this

DIAMOND JUBILEE SOUVENIR

gratefully dedicated.



**HIS HOLINESS, POPE PIUS XII.**

**Now gloriously reigning.**



### THE VISIBLE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

Since the day that Christ sent forth His Apostles "to go into the whole world and teach all nations," this precept has been carried out in an ever widening circle in spite of persecution, excluding no race, brooking no earthly boundaries, for it was a universal, a Catholic Church that Christ founded.

Since the day that Christ gave to the fisherman Saint Peter the "keys of the Kingdom of heaven," there has been no break in the line of succession of Popes, successors of St. Peter, Vicars of Christ on earth.

In 1889, when Sacred Heart Parish was founded, the learned Pope Leo XIII occupied the Chair of Peter. In the succeeding fifty years the church's destiny has been guided by the saintly Pope Pius X, 1903-1912; Pope Benedict XV, 1912-1922, who tried in vain to stop the carnage of World War I, the great Pope Pius XI, 1922-39 whose achievement will live in the pages of history; and now the fisherman's ring is on the hand of the 262nd successor of Saint Peter, Pope Pius XII, who combines in himself the qualities of scholar, statesman and saint. With filial devotion we cry, "Long may he rule."

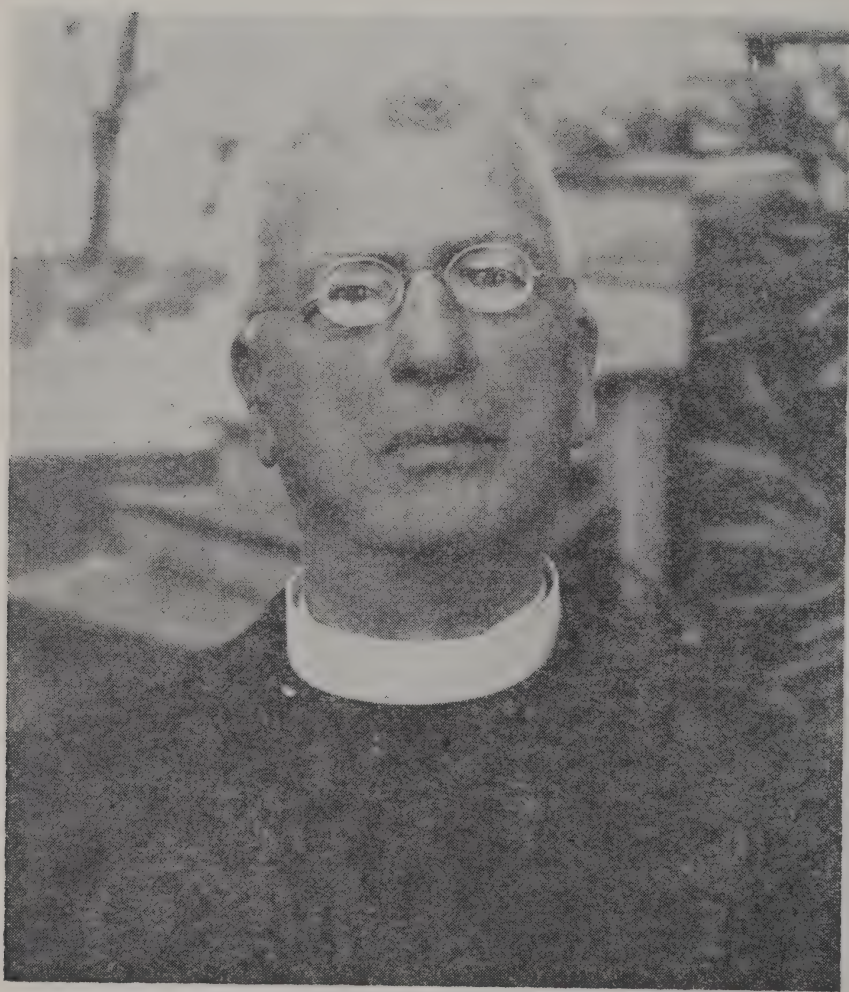


HIS EXCELLENCY, THE MOST REVEREND ROBERT E. LUCEY,  
S.T.D.  
Archbishop of San Antonio



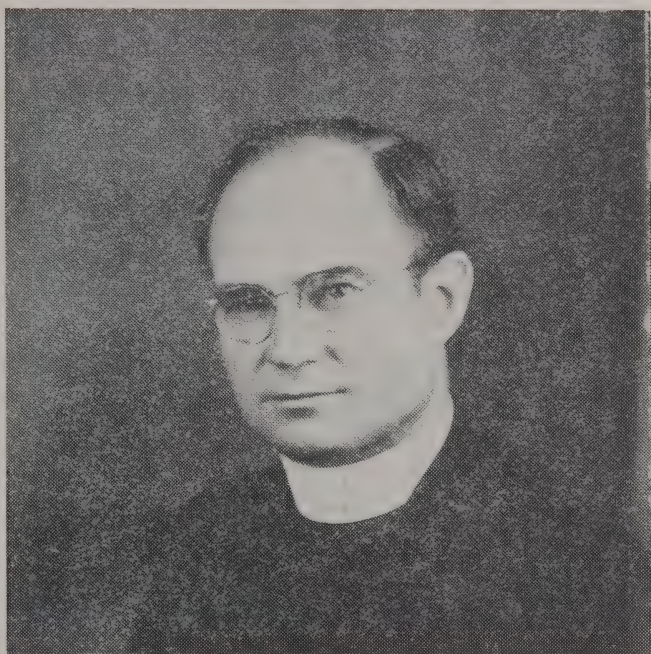


**MOST REV. STEPHEN A. LEVEN, Ph.D.**  
Titular Bishop of Bure. Auxiliary to the Archbishop of San Antonio



VERY REV. P. P. ZARB, V.F.  
September 1899 to 1938





**VERY REV. JOHN J. GERBERMANN, V.F.**  
Present Pastor



**REV. HENRY MOCZYGEMBA**  
Assistant, 1949-1951



**REV. LAMBERT LASKOWSKI**  
Assistant, 1951-1957



**FR. D. VENTO**  
May 1894 to 1899



**VERY REV. FRED DREES, V.F.**  
Pastor 1938 to 1949

**REV. PETER KELKERMANS**  
1948

**REV. WILBERT LEOPOLD**  
1949

**FR. JOHN LAGIER**  
August 1885

**FR. J. H. DAINE**  
1882





OLD LODI CHURCH — Built in 1883



PICTURE OF RECTORY BUILT IN 1900 AT PRESENT  
NEW LOCATION



PICTURE OF CHURCH BUILT IN 1901 AT PRESENT LOCATION

Floresville is the county seat and the largest and most important town of Wilson County situated in its west central part, about 30 miles distant from San Antonio. The records of the Church show that Rev. J. H. Daine, an Englishman, was the first resident Rector of the Parish, and the first baptism was performed by him on the 2nd of July, 1882. Before this time, the few Catholics scattered around Floresville and Lodi were visited occasionally by Priests from San Antonio, amongst them we notice Father Pellicer, Father Neraz and Father Forest, who one after the other were elected Bishops of San Antonio. Father Daine built the first church in Lodi, a small box house, which some years after was destroyed by a storm. Rev. J. Lagier, a Frenchman, who succeeded Father Daine on the 2nd of August, 1885, rebuilt the church using the same lumber at a cost of \$40.00.



On the 13th of November, 1894, Rev. D. Vento, an Italian, was elected to replace Father Lagier, who was moved to another parish. On the 13th of June, 1898, Father Vento gave up the Parish and left for Central America. Rev. P. P. Zarb, D.D., came to Floresville to take charge of the parish on September 23, 1898.

Father Zarb was born on the island of Malta on February 5, 1862. When 10 years old, he began to study for the priesthood. He studied 6 years in the Seminary and 7 in St. Thomas' College from where he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity on December 27, 1885, and was ordained Priest on April 10, 1886. At the request of Dr. J. Camilla, Bishop of Gibraltar, the Archbishop of Malta gave him permission pro tempore to leave the island and go to Gibraltar. On this rock, which was considered the strongest fortified place of Europe, Father Zarb spent some 12 happy years, from the 30th of April, 1886, to the 6th of May, 1898, taking charge of the Maltese colony and the Italians, besides serving as assistant military chaplain to the English forces and chaplain to the Sisters of Loretto, a convent of Irish Sisters who conducted an Academy.

On account of his health, Father Zarb was advised by his doctors to leave Gibraltar. When the Rt. Rev. J. A. Forest, then Bishop of San Antonio, heard of this, he immediately asked him to come to his diocese. On June 4th, 1898, Father Zarb arrived in San Antonio, highly recommended by the Bishop of Gibraltar. Bishop Forest promised him a good parish, if he could wait for some time, meanwhile, he handed him a long list of places where he could give missions and keep himself busy.

After a few days in Santa Rosa Infirmary to recuperate from the long trip, Father Zarb started giving missions to Americans, Mexicans and Italians in D'Hanis, Hondo City, Sabinal, Privilegis, San Geronimo, Kerrville, Victoria, Union Valley, etc. When he went back to San Antonio, the Bishop had another list of places where he could give more missions, but Father Zarb told him he was tired of knocking about and would like to have his own parish. The Bishop explained that he had no vacant parish except Floresville which he thought would be very disappointing to Father Zarb. However, he could have that if he wished until a better place might be found.

The following day, Father Zarb left for Floresville full of courage and good will, to take possession of his parish and to work for the greater glory of God. Although he had already formed the idea that he was going to have a poor church and rectory, he did not dream of such poverty. The church and rectory consisted of a low box house 65 by 22 made of old, broken, unpainted boards. The large windows had nearly all the panes broken and the floor was full of holes and cracks. The roof was covered with cloth hanging in tatters and the furnishings consisted of some common benches, two statues, a home-made confessional, an old plain altar with some small candlesticks, an oil painted picture and a set of very poor, small Stations of the Cross.

The Sacred vestments, altar linen and missal had to be burned together with the alb, cincture, purificators, etc. as not being fit for use. Fortunately, Father Zarb brought with him from Europe his Sacred vestments, some of them the finest in the diocese, and chalice, with everything needed for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The rectory, which could boast of two rooms, was void of all furniture, not even a cooking stove. It was fortunate that the new Pastor came well supplied with funds to use for his Holy work. He started immediately mending and furnishing the church to make it look presentable, added three rooms and a kitchen to the rectory and furnished it with all necessities. In less than two months the entire place was transformed and the congregation began to take more interest in religious things. A

year after, the Bishop offered Father Zarb the rectorship of San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio, but he begged to remain in Floresville. Due to his great energy and zeal, a new Catholic church was erected in Floresville, it being the largest and best furnished church not only in Wilson County, but many other counties of Texas. On the 23rd of October, 1901, Bishop Forest, accompanied by several rectors, blessed the new Church, which was dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, consecrated a chime of three large new bells, made of fine metal and weighing 1235 pounds, and blessed the fine, large rectory built with the rector's funds. This, indeed, was a red letter day, long to be remembered by the congregation when they considered that just a short while before, they could hardly speak of their Church and now they were superior to all the other denominations of the county. Father Zarb was very thankful to all his parishioners and friends of Floresville and Europe who contributed to the building of the church. A list of persons who contributed \$50 and up is as follows: H. S. Tom, \$500; J. E. Dewees, \$150; H. Rogers, \$80; R. Battersby, \$122.50; M. George, \$50; A. T. Flores, \$100; A. C. Standt, \$75; Mrs. M. Montes, \$125; F. Billimek, \$85; R. J. Woellert, \$60; Mrs. S. V. Houston, \$95; Mrs. J. C. Houston, \$125; C. Fisher, \$100; Mrs. H. S. Tom, \$150; Mrs. L. Powierski, \$103. Those who donated articles to furnish the church were: Mrs. L. Powierski, a grand chandelier of gilt brass for the centre; A. T. Flores, a Baptismal Font; P. Grenier, an artistic Confessional; Mrs. M. Montes, the large bell; Mrs. J. Kendrick, the middle bell; J. N. Flores, the small bell of the chime, the High Altar and two statues of St. Peter and Paul; Mrs. E. Webber, a pair of large candelabra of gilt brass; Mrs. J. C. Houston, a pair of small candelabra of gilt brass; H. S. Tom, two side altars; Mrs. J. E. Dewees, two large Portiers for each side of the High Altar; Mrs. A. R. Flores, a Brussels carpet for the sanctuary; J. Y. Flores, gold lace for the High Altar; Mrs. R. Lackey, a pair of linen altar cloths; Mrs. A. T. Flores and family, a large banner of red satin embroidered in superfine gold for the confraternity of the blessed sacrament; Mrs. F. Quintanilla, a combined kneeler and confessional. Later on, H. S. Tom bought two acres of land opposite the Floresville Cemetery, fenced them in and donated them to the Parish for a cemetery.

Father Zarb's congregation was made up of 270 families, numbering 1292 individuals. There were 41 American, German, Polish, Austrian, Bohemian, French, Assyrian, and 229 families of Mexican origin. During the year 1914, Father Zarb performed 213 baptisms of infants and three of adults; 38 marriages and 1 mixed marriage; buried 7 infants and 13 adults; admitted to Solemn Communion 22 and to private communion 49 children; distributed 3300 communions and received three converts.

Besides Floresville, Father Zarb had to attend to the church this side of Stockdale, 12 miles distant; the church of Belton, 38 miles; the one at Tilden, 68 miles distant. He tried to visit them once a month, but since the trips had to be made in a buggy and the roads were always in bad condition, he soon found this to be too much of a strain and limited his visits to once every two months.

Father Zarb could spend many hours relating anecdotes, hardships and accidents that happened on these trips to the missions. You may imagine to yourself how pleasant it is to attend sick calls at any hour of the day or night, in rain or cold, or in the hot summer sun, making 60 or 70 miles in any kind of conveyance, very often a wagon or a buggy without a top, traveling in a hurry, without even stopping to take your meal for fear that the patient may die before you arrived to administer the last consolation of religion; and after this pleasant trip you could consider yourself lucky if you got back your expenses. Father Zarb had sick calls where he had to travel 82 miles by buggy to reach the patient.



And mind you, no priest can refuse sick calls or charge anything for his trouble, not even at the risk of his life. Several times Father Zarb slept without supper and very often he went without dinner. On one occasion he went without food for 36 hours, waterbound. On another occasion he crossed La Parrita creek when it was out of its banks, and not knowing its depth, found himself neck deep in water. Everything in the buggy was washed out and he had to stay in the water from two in the evening until ten at night. Never in his life had he experienced such a bitter cold. Although Father Zarb had a strong constitution, after so many years of hard life his health was ruined by exposure and he fell dangerously sick. It took seven years for him to recover.

After this, he kept only the church of Campbellton, visiting it every 3rd Sunday of the month. Campbellton was a new railroad town surrounded by rich, fertile land where a great variety of fruit trees and vegetables grew luxuriously. The Catholic congregation numbered 69 families with 445 souls, 81 of them American and the rest Mexicans. Father Zarb was very proud of this congregation where the majority were good, fervent Catholics that appreciated and loved their Pastor.

Now, we don't consider this part of the history complete unless we mention briefly Father Zarb's property. It adjoins the church and comprises over two blocks, which due to his hard work and skill, he completely transformed into a new Eden that people from far and near came to visit. Just behind the Rectory was a large fruit garden with every kind of fruit tree and an arbor 124 feet long from which Father Zarb supplied his friends with fruit and berries in abundance. Beyond this was the park, containing over two acres with hundreds of evergreen trees, shrubs and palms imported from different parts of the world. Amongst them were the camphor tree of China, the pine of British India, and the cedar of the Himalaya Mountains. In the center was a large round fish pond containing eight kinds of gold fish, some very rare and odd. They increased in great numbers and when they heard the Master's voice, would rush to the surface and stay in front of him. A little farther off was found an artificial lake 120x300 feet, covered with concrete. In the center was a small island, called Gem Island. To get to this island a person would cross an arched bridge 36 feet long and made of steel and concrete. If bread was dropped into the water, thousands of fish of different kinds and magnitude would come to the surface. Some of these fish weighed 12 pounds and more. From here, a view of the vineyard containing 2800 vines, with rows of paper shell pecan trees numbering 324 could be seen. About 40,000 pounds of grapes and several hundred pounds of pecans were gathered from this place in 1916.

Father Zarb was very attached to his parish, where he was everyone's friend. And although twice, he had the chance to become Bishop, he chose to stay in Floresville.

After the building of the school in 1933, the pastor and parishioners began to realize that the present church facilities were inadequate to meet the needs of the parish. Immediately plans were made for expanding the present church. Shortly before the blessing of the school, Father P. P. Zarb told this writer, that he had, "one more thing to accomplish which was the enlarging and remodeling of the present church structure." "That" he said, "would complete his project for the Floresville parish as far as he was concerned." And so it happened that 2 years later in 1935, work was begun on the church.

Leo M. J. Dielman, San Antonio architect, had designed the proposed plans for remodeling and rebuilding the church throughout. Louis Guido, of San Antonio, contractor for the school, was also awarded the contract for the church and A. Scalise was to be his associate in the construction work. The work was begun immediately.

The plans called for a modern brick veneer building. The present

building would be enlarged and remodeled throughout with brick veneer on the outside. The roof plans of the present church would be changed entirely and the seating capacity of the new building to be twice that of the old structure. The interior would be changed completely. The plans called for new additions and improvements to add to the appearance of the building as well as the comfort of the parishioners. The project to cost somewhere between ten and twelve thousand dollars.

The building committee was composed of Messers: Joe Ullmann, Joe Jansky, E. F. Ullmann, N. S. Richter and E. A. Flieller. The contractor was given 5 months in which to complete the work.

The work on the church was begun as scheduled and progressed successfully according to the specifications of the proposal. The date for the dedication of the church was set for October 6, 1935. The Blessing of the renovated church took place Sunday morning about 9:00 a.m., October 6, 1935. The Rt. Rev. P. J. Geehan of San Antonio was appointed to bless the church. He was assisted by a number of priests from San Antonio, Texas. It was another great day for the parishioners of Floresville to have a church not equalled by any other in the county. This was a great help to uplift and foster a better spirit of Catholicity among the Catholic population of Floresville. On Sunday morning, October 6, 1935, in spite of the threatening weather a large crowd of about 3500 gathered and witnessed the dedication of the recently enlarged parish church.

The completion of the church was Father Zarb's long desired hope. And once more the writer of this part of the parish's history heard him express himself joyfully as to what he so gladly gave to the parish and the parishioners were very happy with what they received from their pastor. However Father Zarb did not live long to enjoy his accomplishments. In 1939 he became too feeble to take care of the needs of the parish and received an assistant, Father Fred Drees who was to help him in his parish work. On May 24, 1942, he passed away in the Alexian Brothers Home for the aged, in St. Louis, where he was buried.

Father Fred Drees became the pastor of Floresville after the passing of Father P. P. Zarb. The parish seemed to take on more life during his administration. Father Fred Drees' kind and jovial, friendly disposition won many friends for himself and for the church, and there was a substantial increase in membership in the church during his administration. Thru this administration the many parish organizations had their beginnings. Especially the Holy Name Society, which is the life of the parish in so many ways and the Blessed Sacrament Society, a group of ladies who concern themselves with the cleaning of the church and the needs of the altar and the sacristies.





**SACRED HEART RECTORY**  
Built in 1944



**SACRED HEART EDUCATIONAL BUILDING**  
Built In 1955

## PARISH RECTORY

While the church and the school were in excellent condition when Father Fred Drees became pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in 1942, the spacious rectory built in 1901, was needing more and more repairs. So in early 1944, Father Drees and a number of good men of the parish saw the need of reconstructing the present building and converting it into a modern structure. C. B. Schneider was chosen as the contractor and many of the parishioners were to help him in this project. The old building was dismantled and completely rebuilt and was ready for occupancy by November of 1944. The new building, a one story structure, was a modern well planned building which fits in well with the parish plant. In July 1948 the appointment of an assistant to the parish demanded the addition of more space, so an extra room was added on the south-east side of the rectory, which became the pastor's bed room.

## CHANGE OF PASTORS

In September, 1949, there was a change of pastors in Floresville. Father Drees took over his duties in Hobson and Father J. Gerbermann of St. Agnes Parish in San Antonio was appointed pastor and dean of Floresville on September 28, 1949. There was given Father Gerbermann a nice welcome to the parish on Sunday morning. He was showered with all kinds of needed gifts for the rectory. Parish activities went on normally, but there were a number of needs, which were kept in mind. There was needed space for parish activities, and the only place being the school basement which belonged to the sisters.

## PARISH EDUCATIONAL BUILDING

November 30, 1953, Sacred Heart Parish purchased from the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of San Antonio, 1.33 acres of land northwest of the church for the purpose of an educational building.

The parish in 1950 first built a storage room 24'x30', which was really appreciated by the parishioners. Next year there was built another small building, and there were put up needed lights on the grounds for organizational activities. The next venture spoken of was a parish hall, which became a reality in June of 1955. The parish trustees spoke of the project a number of times. It was discussed in the Holy Name Society until enough enthusiasm was worked up and the project was begun in January of 1955 and was completed by June 1955. Alfonso Flieller was the general contractor with a number of sub-contractors.

The Blessing of the New Parish Hall was set for June 26, 1955. A big parish barbecue was planned for the occasion. Msgr. Joseph L. Manning, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, represented the Archbishop in blessing the New Parish Educational Building. Ever since then with all the activities in the parish, the people are wondering how did they get along without the Educational Building. No better project for the parish could have been planned.

## RENOVATION OF THE CHURCH 1957

The entire area southwest of San Antonio was at this time in about the worst drought in history. It really looked all but hopeful to see no crops for a number of years, and the greater portion of the people of this area finding work in San Antonio. But people continued just the same with great faith in God. The Diamond Jubilee of the parish was approaching fast. Something should be done; gradually, there appeared a change in the weather. The parish took advantage of this apparent change with confidence in God and voted to renovate the church to a sum of about \$10,000. The parish board considered it a good idea, and



the Holy Name Society, a really interested group in the parish, voted to go ahead with the project, and work was at once begun about the middle of March. After all necessary formalities with the Archbishop and the Chancery office were cleared, Alfonso Flieller, a member of the parish once more was awarded the contract and was in charge of the renovation project. The church was given a complete going over to make it really a fit place for the Diamond Jubilee. The cooperation of the people was whole hearted and a splended example of unity in the parish. The project was completed about May 25, and the church was ready for use for the occasion of the High School Graduating exercises, an undertaking begun by the parish council in the year of 1956.

A number of donations were made to the church on the occasion of the renovation of the church.

Station of the Cross — Blessed Sacrament Society, Sacred Heart Society, Mrs. Paul Kuban, Gaadalupana Society, and a good parishioner gave \$25.00.

Candle Sticks for the Main Altar — Mr. and Mrs. Alfonso Flieller gave the large candle sticks and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Estrada — the small candle sticks for the main altar.

A Tabernacle and Respository — Mr. and Mrs. Frank Vela, Sr.

Missal and Missal Stand — Miss Josephine Meismer.

Our Lady of Sorrows Statue — Blessed Sacrament Society.

Sacred Heart Statue — Mrs. A. F. Skarke and family.

Crucifix — Mr. and Mrs. Andres Trevino.

Blessed Virgin — Mr. and Mrs. Herbert E. Skarke.

St. Anthony — Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Yanta.

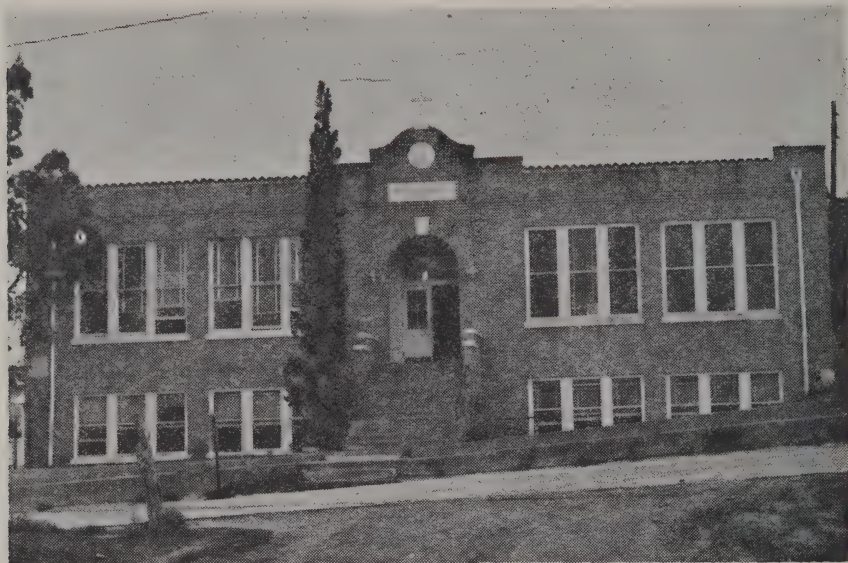
St. Joseph — Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Sheehy.

Surplice — Mr. and Mrs. Isidore Felux.

Cash donations — Mary George \$100.00, Julia George \$25.00, Ladislav Bench \$5.00, and Dr. Alex Broll, \$25.00.



SACRED HEART PARISH TRUSTEES: — Right to left: Frank Kasper, I. D. Flores, Jr., E. A. Flieller, N. S. Richter, C. B. Schneider, E. F. Ullmann, Joe Toscano.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL ERECTED IN SEPTEMBER, 1933

### THE SCHOOL

While Father Zarb worked hard to build up the parish materially, he by no means overlooked the spiritual part. The parish was continually making progress. After Father Zarb had the church and rectory built and the necessary improvements in the yard, he set his heart on a Catholic School, so that the children of the parish would have the opportunity of receiving better Catholic training. He consulted with a number of parishioners as to a Catholic School; E. F. Ullmann, C. B. Schneider, N. S. Richter, S. V. Houston and Joe Sheehy, are some whose consideration convinced Father Zarb to proceed. Collection of funds began and progressed rapidly. After a number of discussions for and against, the project was begun in the early part of 1933. Parish help and P W A Help was secured to dig the basement of the school. Parish Volunteer Help and P W A did all the digging of the basement. The contract of building the school was awarded to Louis Guido of San Antonio. Leo M. J. Dielman was the architect. Many of the parishioners worked along helping to build the school, donating their time and labor. By September 17, 1933, the building project was completed and the Blessing of the school took place.

The Most Rev. A. J. Drossaerts, Archbishop of San Antonio, accompanied by a number of Priests of the Archdiocese, blessed the school on September 17, 1933. One of the Oblate Priests said the Mass. The Very Rev. S. M. Metzger, Rector of St. John's Seminary, now Bishop of El Paso, preached the Sermon for the occasion. E. F. Kasprzyk, the only Floresville Seminarian, served Mass that day.

After Mass, the procession lead to the new Sacred Heart School, the realization of Father Zarb's dreams. His Excellency, the Archbishop, accompanied by the Very Rev. P. J. Geehan, blessed the school in the presence of one of the largest gatherings at Sacred Heart Parish activities. This day was one amongst the greatest stepping stones in the History of Sacred Heart Parish and the fond realization of Father Zarb's hopes. The people of the Parish felt indeed grateful to their pastor for



this act of kindness. The writer of this article knows well the sentiments of the pastor, for on a number of occasions, Father Zarb, spoke of his joy at the completion of this project.

At the Barbecue Dinner, the day of the Blessing, Mr. J. T. Sheehy, welcomed the Archbishop and the visiting Priests and the Sisters in the behalf of the Mayor, S. V. Houston, unable to be present on account of illness. Mr. J. T. Sheehy graciously expressed the sentiments of the Parish and of the City Officials, as well as the citizenry generally, at being able to participate on this auspicious occasion. Father Zarb responded joyfully with a short speech, and His Excellency concluded with generous praise of Father Zarb for his wonderful accomplishments for the Parish.

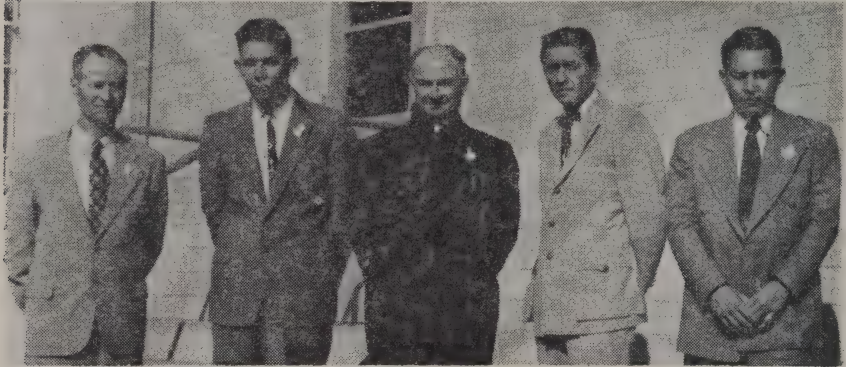
This new school was accepted by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament to be operated by them. After a few years, Father Zarb donated to the above named sister-hood the school and the adjacent land owned by him leaving the Parish only the church and the property it stood on. Since this left the Parish in an unfavorable circumstance, the sisters returned to the Parish the former rectory for the pastor to live in and extended the property boundaries somewhat. The remainder of the property owned by Father Zarb was willed to the school for operational help and to accept poor worthy children to get a Christian Education. In this way the school was operated by the sisters until the death of Father P. P. Zarb, May 24, 1942. From then on the sisters managed the school as a private school until in August of 1950, when His Excellency the Most Rev. Robert E. Lucey, asked the Pastor to take over the operation of the school as a parochial school on a lend-lease basis (while it remains the property of the Sisters). In September then of 1950, Sacred Heart School opened as a parochial school and the parish became responsible for the upkeep of the building, the grounds, the utilities and the salary of the sisters. The parish in turn pays the sisters a nominal rental fee of \$25.00, but receives all rental and lease money from the properties that belong to the operation of the school.

When the parish took over the school only 2 class rooms were in use. Thereafter another class room was added every year; so as of today, there are 4 sisters and one lay teacher (Sr. M. Josephine, Sr. M. Assumpta, Sr. M. Celina and Sr. M. Claudia and Mrs. F. S. Toscano) teaching the 215 children presently enrolled.

The Steven's 2 room school building was bought in January of 1957 for \$700.00 and moved to Floresville by Max Gottschalt of Cuero for the sum of \$500.00. It is hoped that in another year we can add another teacher, and the building also will give us more space for our Cathéchism Program.

### PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

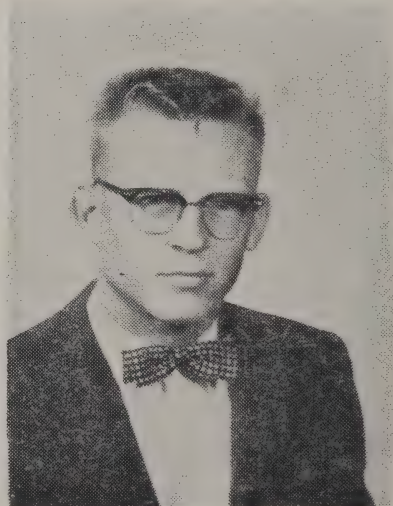
After discussing the matter frequently, it was thought there should be a Parish School Board. So in the beginning of the 1956-57 school term, the following men were appointed on the school board: Frank Siebold, Wm. Merecka, Desmond Johns, A. P. Acosta and Pete Devora. These men will be a great help to the ladies, Parent Teacher Club.



**SACRED HEART SCHOOL OFFICERS: — Left to right: Frank Siebold, Desmond Johns, Rev. John J. Gerbermann, A. P. Acosta, Pete Devora.**



**MISS LYDIA MUNOZ**  
Valedictorian  
1957



**MR. WILLIAM K. FOITIK**  
Salutatorian  
1957

The above students, former pupils of Sacred Heart School, have taken the honors as senior graduates at Floresville High for 1957.





**MRS. S. V. HOUSTON**

**First President of the first organization of Sacred Heart Parish and now a life member of the Blessed Sacrament Society.**

#### **BLESSED SACRAMENT SOCIETY**

In March 1940, a group of ladies of Sacred Heart Parish organized an Altar Society, under the supervision and direction of the Pastor, Father Fred Drees, and with the approval of the Spiritual Authorities of the Church. The Society is under the Patronage of Our Sorrowful Mother.

The officers were: Mrs. S. V. Houston, President; Mrs. Patty Carnes Toman, Vice-President; Mrs. Marie Eckels Roberts, Secretary; Mrs. Bridget De La Zerda, Treasurer, with a membership of 57. The meetings were held monthly in the Church after the first Mass.

Mrs. Houston was elected Life President in 1942 for valuable service rendered as a leader.

November 19, 1943, at Father Drees' suggestion, the name of the society was changed to the Confraternity of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Father suggested the First Friday and the First Sunday of each month to be the regular Communion Days for the Society. Those who could not go on the First Friday could receive on Sunday. Today the Society observes the First Sunday of each month as their Communion Day, marching in a body and carrying the Blessed Sacrament Banner.

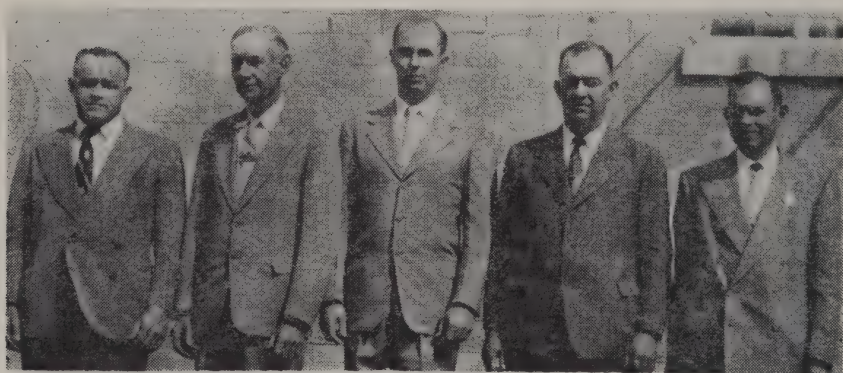
Beginning October, 1949, the meetings were held in the school auditorium until January, 1952, when it was decided to meet in the different homes of the members with a group of ladies acting as hostesses at each meeting. Mrs. Henry Baumann, Sr., was the first hostess. At the present time the meetings are being held in the Educational Building. The object of the organization is to unite the ladies, as a group, to fos-

ter a greater love and devotion for Christ in the Holy Eucharist, and to become more interested especially in the things which pertain to the Sanctuary and the Church and to make the house of God more attractive to all.

The present officers are: Mrs. J. T. Sheehy, President; Mrs. Alfred Skarke, Vice-President; Mrs. Alfonso Flieller, Secretary; Mrs. Frank Siebold, Treasurer; and Mrs. I. D. Flores, Jr., Reporter.



**OFFICERS OF BLESSED SACRAMENT SOCIETY:** — Right to left: Mrs. J. T. Sheehy, president; Mrs. Alfred Skarke, vice president; Mrs. Alfonso Flieller, secretary; Mrs. Frank Siebold, treasurer.



**OFFICERS OF HOLY NAME SOCIETY:** — Right to left: J. B. Flieller, Jr., president; Emil Baumann, treasurer; E. J. Flieller, secretary; Alfonso Flieller, vice president; John Klasek, marshal.

#### **HOLY NAME SOCIETY**

A men's organization for the Parish was begun about 17 years ago. While there was a Holy Name Charter taken out for the Parish in October 13, 1913, it was only in April of 1940, that the first men's organiza-



tion was begun under the auspices of the Holy Name Society. It is primarily a Parish Organization, to bring the men of the Parish together and unite them for the cause of spreading a greater reverence for the Holy Name of Jesus.

This men's organization is the real center of life in the church, a fine group of men that can be depended upon to help the parish. It interests itself in the spiritual program as well as for the material progress of the parish.

The first Holy Name Society was begun by Father Fred Drees and the first officers were the following: President, E. F. Ullman; Vice-President, John Beltzhoover; Secretary-Treasurer, G. C. Ullman.

The present staff of officers are: President, Jerome B. Flieller, Jr.; Vice-President, Henry Baumann, Jr.; Secretary, E. J. Flieller; Treasurer, Emil Baumann and Marshal, John Klasek.

Present membership in the Holy Name Society is 136.



**OFFICERS OF GUADALUPANA SOCIETY: — Right to left:**  
Mrs. Juanita Guerra, president; Mrs. Lupe Pena, vice president;  
Mrs. Juanita Garza, secretary.

#### GUADALUPANA SOCIETY

During the Second World War in 1941, the son of Mrs. Juanita Guerrero was taken into the service of the country and for 5 months was not heard from, and the mother was under the impression that anything could have happened. As the mother put it, she was overcome with worry and in July of 1942, she had a dream of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In the appearance, the Blessed Virgin told her if she wanted to know the whereabouts of her son to begin devotions in her Honor and say the Rosary every 12th of the month in Her Honor. She began to do this.

To get something done about the dream or the vision, Mrs. Guerrero consulted Father Fred Drees, who after hearing the story gave his full approval to organize a Society in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Mrs. Guerrero contacted her neighbors and friends and told them the story and all agreed to join the Society and on August 12, 1942, the Society was organized with 100 members with Mrs. Juanita Guerrero as President; Mrs. Juanita Garza as Secretary and Mrs. Hosbaldo Reyes as

Treasurer. On that day the group together recited their first Rosary and had their first meeting. Five days later, Mrs. Guerrero received her first letter from the son whom she had not heard from for 6 months.

At that first meeting, the group also decided to procure a picture and a banner in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A picture was donated by Alonzo Perales of San Antonio and later on they bought the present picture and banner. Since that time the organization has existed in the Parish. Membership had dropped to quite a low figure by 1949, however membership is increasing. There are 30 members now. Since they are mostly elderly ladies belonging to this organization, they have concerned themselves more with the spiritual side of the church. They go to Holy Communion every 4th Sunday of the Month.

The present officers are: President, Mrs. Juanita Guerrero; Secretary, Mrs. Juanita Garza; and Treasurer, Mrs. Mary Martinez.



**SACRED HEART P-TC OFFICERS:** — Reading right to left: Mrs. Anna Lee Torres, president; Mrs. Frank Siebold, vice president; Mrs. Don Carnes, secretary; Mrs. Mike Baumann, treasurer.

#### **PARENT-TEACHER CLUB**

One year after the opening of Sacred Heart School saw the organization of a Parent-Teacher Club. That is an important group in any Parish, where there is a Catholic School. The people of the Parish were so enthused over their Catholic School that they wished to organize and help their school to prosper, to fulfill its mission and grow. A Parent-Teacher Club was organized through the good will of the ladies of the Parish. Mrs. J. T. Sheehy (not a Catholic then) together with Mrs. S. V. Houston gladly volunteered to lend their experience in setting up a Parent-Teacher Club in September of 1934. The officers of the first Parent-Teacher Club were: Mrs. A. B. Carnes, President; Mrs. F. A. Sharke, Treasurer; and Mrs. M. Ermler, Secretary-Treasurer. From that year on there was an active Parent-Teacher Club at Sacred Heart School. The records show how this group of ladies gave whole-heartedly of their energy to help the cause of their Catholic School. This incident is told by one of the organizers of the Parent-Teacher Club how Mrs. Stella de la Zerda and Mrs. Mary Ann Flores donated a cookie jar and a few other items bought from the C & C Store and sold chances. They took



in \$30.00 from this raffle. This was the first money raised toward buying books for Sacred Heart School. Since that time the Parent-Teacher Club has raised funds for books, athletic equipment, school furniture, and other necessities for the school.

The school needs were rather heavy since the Parish took over the school in 1950. The school needed a complete change of books and the enrollment had increased greatly. Other equipment was poor and so there was spent in the neighborhood of from \$600.00 to \$1,000.00 every year. The present officers are: Mrs. Alex Torres, President; Mrs. Frank Siebold, Vice-President; Mrs. Don Carnes, Secretary and Mrs. Mike Baumann, Reporter.

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**CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE OFFICERS: —**  
Left to right: Mrs. A. T. Hoelscher, vice president; Mrs. Elmo Wright, president; Mrs. Wm. McGowan, secretary-treasurer.

#### CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine is an organization that interests itself in teaching Catechism to children who have no other way of getting a Christian Education.

A Certificate of Erection in the Parish states that as of July 13, 1942, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine was properly established in Sacred Heart Parish of Floresville.

From most reliable sources, we have it that Mrs. D. J. Roberts was the first President of this group. At present the officers are the following: Mrs. Elmo Wright, President; Mrs. A. T. Hoelscher, Vice President and Mrs. Wm. McGowan, Secretary-Treasurer.

This group of ladies is very active in their work; for the last 3 years they had more than 400 children coming for instructions. The Private Communion Class last Sunday numbered 80, and the Solemn Communion numbered 90. The Parish School turns out at 3:00 p.m. so that the children from the Public Schools can come in on release time to get their instructions. This goes on four days each week.

We have a group of children whose parents are too poor to have any transportation, so that they will have an opportunity to go to Mass at least sometimes and receive Holy Communion on First Friday, permission was obtained to have Holy Mass on Fridays in order that these

children can come to Mass, go to Holy Communion, and still return in time to catch the bus and return home. Without the splendid work of these good ladies, many children would go without religious instructions.



**JUDY CARSON**  
Sodality President 1957

### SODALITY

Realizing the need of some means to bring our Catholic young people together, Father Wilbur Leopold in 1948 used his influence in organizing a much needed Sodality for the young people of Floresville. A group for young people is a must in any parish if our young Catholic people should enjoy some recreation on Christian principles. How can Catholics meet Catholics unless there is some activity sponsored that will bring them together? It is much easier for them to go to church and receive the Sacraments if they do it in a group. Realizing all these things Father Wilbur Leopold used his kindness and organizational ability to form this group for the young people. Father Lambert Laskowski succeeded him in this position. Through the Sodality activities, spiritual as well as recreational activities are sponsored in the Parish. When the youth of a Parish are really interested in their sodality program, this is where you will find healthy and progressive initiative that makes for good parishioners.





**OFFICERS SACRED HEART SOCIETY: — Right to left: Mrs. Fred Garza, president; Mrs. Fausto Toscano, vice president; Mrs. Rudy Garza, secretary.**

#### **SACRED HEART SOCIETY**

In the work of parish organization and groupings, after several years of observation, it became clearer that another organization was necessary. Through a suggestion made by His Excellency the Most Rev. Robert E. Lucey, the idea and final organization of Sacred Heart Society took place. The purpose of Sacred Heart Society is to organize members and bring them into a closer harmony with each other that they may learn more about the Church.

That also they may share the responsibilities of the parish accordingly as they arise. To create an interest in present day religious, civic, social, and educational problems and to aid in their solution. The Sacred Heart Society has undertaken a number of really worthwhile activities and determined in carrying them out. They organized a Canteen for subteen-age children, help take care of altar needs, clean the church at regular intervals and have a share in all parish privileges through the parish council. The group was organized Feb. 6, 1955 and enjoys a membership of about 40 ladies.



**DR. A. D. BROLL**  
**President St. Vincent De Paul**  
**Society**

#### **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

After a number of years of prompting on the part of the St. Vincent De Paul Society of San Antonio, a branch of St. Vincent De Paul Society for the needy was set up here. Mr. Kenedy and Mr. Walden of San Antonio visited with our group here and set up the St. Vincent De Paul Society.

The officers are the following: Dr. Alex Broll, President; Joe Toscano, Vice-President; Carlos Munoz, Treasurer. Other members are A. J. Richter, Pete Devora and Manuel Toscano.

This organization has played an important part in the Parish for the poor since its beginning October 28, 1954. These gentlemen have done their part in helping the poor of the Parish. They have been true to their neighbors in becoming a member of the St. Vincent De Paul Society.





**WOMEN'S PARISH COUNCIL:** — Right to left: Mrs. J. T. Sheehy, president; Mrs. Fausto Toscano, secretary; Mrs. Elmo Wright, treasurer.

### LADIES PARISH COUNCIL

Since there were a number of Ladies' organizations in the Parish, and the question of representation and affiliation with the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women arose, there was the immediate need of a Parish Council so that all the ladies organizations of the Parish would have some sort of a unifying or overall group and this gave way to a Parish Council of Catholic Women which pools all the efforts and works of the ladies of the Parish.

This overall organization of the Blessed Sacrament Society; the Sacred Heart Society, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, the Parent-Teacher Club and Guadalupe Society, was begun in the Fall of 1955. Through this organization all the ladies organizations of the Parish receive recognition and join together in Parish activities. The officers are the following: Mrs. J. T. Sheehy, President; Mrs. Leo Bohach, Vice-President; Mrs. F. S. Toscano, Secretary and Mrs. Elmo Wright, Treasurer.

### BOY SCOUTS

The last of organizations to have its birth in the Parish is that of Boy Scouts and a little later Cub Scouts. It is in this way that our young boys are being trained in trying to do good and keep busy as a group. That "good turn each day" shines before a Scout's eyes and keeps him alert at all times. Father Lambert Laskowski organized a Scout Troop at Sacred Heart School in the spring of 1951 and since that time there has been an active Scout Troop under Catholic auspices at all times in Floresville. The Holy Name Society agreed to sponsor this troop.

Cub Scouting has also had its beginning in the very recent past, beginning just at the time of the writing of these articles. After much thought as to the possibility of a Cub Troop, Father Lambert began this activity in the early part of 1957.

## STOCKDALE

In the latter part of 1950, the Pastor of Floresville received a sudden and unexpected notice to take over the Little Parish in Stockdale. There was a small, dingy-looking church-like structure west of Stockdale which served a part of the people outside of Stockdale but was of no benefit to the people in Stockdale.

An effort was to be made to build a church in Stockdale so that it could also serve the people there. Such was the wish of His Excellency, Most Rev. Robert E. Lucey.

Every effort was made to get this project started. His Excellency wished Father Henry Moczygemba to use his efforts in behalf of the people of Stockdale. Results were gratifying. So much so that a year and a half later, Stockdale had a spacious and beautiful church in which to worship God. This church was built at a cost of about \$27,000.00 and all but about \$400.00 has been paid to date. Father Henry took care of the Services there until November 20th, 1952, and then was succeeded by Father Lambert Laskowski, under whose able leadership the Parish is steadily progressing.

St. Mary's Church of Stockdale is proud of its organizations, the Holy Name Society, headed by A. A. Kowalik as President; the Altar Society, headed by Mrs. A. W. Wilmoth as President; the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, headed by Mrs. A. W. Wilmoth as President. The Sodality's Prefect is Miss Virginia Benavides. The Trustees are as follows: A. A. Kowalik, John Flores, George Ramzinski, Joe Cardenas, John F. Wiatrik and Joe G. Perez.

## A NEW BALL PARK BUILT

Ever since Father Gerbermann came to Floresville, he intended to make a ball park and playground out of the property behind the Parish Educational Building. At first it seemed too costly because of the tremendous slope. The Wilson County Soil Conservation Office surveyed the property and blueprinted the project. County Commissioner B. A. Jimenez, with help from County Commissioner Leonard Rotter, agreed to undertake and complete the project. Due to the much welcomed rains and other circumstances, it turned out that Commissioner Rotter actually did the bulk of the work. The Parish and community as a whole owe an act of gratitude to these fine men who contributed so generously of their time and effort. Father Gerbermann's hope was fulfilled when on May 12, 1957, the first baseball game was played on the new diamond.

The realization of this new Ball Park reached its completion thru the industrious and the untiring efforts of Father Lambert Laskowski. He spent much time in securing the help of the Commissioners of Poth and Floresville, of the Soil Conservation Office, members of the parish, and generous hearted citizens of the City of Floresville. The new Ball Park is a credit to Father Lambert Laskowski's zeal for the young people, to the parish as well as to the citizens of Floresville.

## PASTOR'S SILVER SACERDOTAL JUBILEE

In February of 1957, while the Pastor, Father Gerbermann, was making his annual retreat, the Parish trustees and the heads of each Parish organization held a sort of secret meeting. It was decided during the meeting that the Parish would certainly honor their Pastor on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee in the Priesthood. Since the actual ordination date, April 4, occurred during Lent, May 5, was chosen as the date on which the Parish would observe the Pastor's Jubilee.

The day's activities commenced with a Solemn High Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by the Pastor at 10:00 o'clock. A procession with 25



altar boys and 25 flower girls led the Sacred Ministers and the Clergy into Church. The Rev. Hugo Gerbermann, the Pastor's brother who is a Maryknoll Missionary in Guatemala, Central America, served as Assistant Priest. Deacon and Subdeacon were the Very Rev. Msgr. Peter L. Foegelle and Rev. Theodore T. Janysek. Father Roy Rihn delivered an impressive sermon on vocations for the occasion.

The ladies' organizations of both Floresville and Stockdale served a delicious luncheon at 1:00 p.m. Attending were some 30 priests, about the same number of Father Gerbermann's relatives from Nada and El Campo. Church and School trustees of both Floresville and Stockdale as well as representatives of all men's and women's organizations from the two Churches. After lunch the children of Sacred Heart School presented a program as their part of the tribute to their Pastor.

From 4:00 to 6:00 that afternoon a reception extended to the public was held for Father Gerbermann. Several hundred Catholics and Protestants came to the reception. During it the Parish paid a material tribute to their Pastor by presenting him with a sizeable purse.

### VOCATIONS TO THE RELIGIOUS LIFE

Young ladies who entered the religious life in the service of God for the salvation of souls are the following: Miss Gladys Zook, Sister of Warren Zook (now known as Sister Agatha Lynn) entered the Divine Providence Sister Catechist House on Castroville Road some time before 1948. Mary Anne Estrada, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Estrada entered the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Convent in Victoria on August 26, 1951. Miss Odelia Estrada entered the same Convent the following year. Miss Billy Jean, daughter of Wm. Schwertlech, entered the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Convent in August of 1952; and Dorothy Zahn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Zahn, entered the same Convent in August of 1955.

James Hoelscher, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Hoelscher, entered Saint John's Seminary in September of 1951 and is now pursuing his Theological Studies at the North American College in Rome, Italy. He is scheduled to be ordained in mid-December of 1958 in the North American College in Rome Italy.

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